

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EUR-25 IO-14 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06

SIL-01 OC-06 CCO-00 A-01 OPR-02 SY-04 NIC-01 SCCT-02

DRC-01 /187 W

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P 031535Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4310

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, NI

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN RAILWAYS ON STRIKE AGAIN

REF: LAGOS 4087

SUMMARY: NIGERIAN RAILWAYS HIT AGAIN BY INDUSTRIAL
DISPUTE JUNE 3. EXTENT OF STRIKE NOT YET CLEAR BUT
RAIL SERVICE OUT OF LAGOS TO NORTH HAS REPORTEDLY
BEEN HALTED. SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES BEHIND STRIKE
APPEAR RATHER VAGUE AND REAL CAUSE SEEMS TO STEM
FROM TIBAL ISSUE WITHIN NIGERIAN RAILWAY CORPORATION
END SUMMARY

1. RAIL TRAFFIC FROM LAGOS TO NORTH HALTED MORNING
JUNE 3 BY INDUSTRIAL ACTION CALLED BY NIGERIAN UNION
OF RAILWAYMEN FEDERATED (NRUF). UNIONS DEMANDS
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LACK REAL SUBSTANCE, ESPECIALLY AFTER NRC MANAGEMENT

HAS PUBLICLY AGREED TO MEET SOME DEMANDS AND CONSULT ON OTHERS. NUMBER OF NATIONAL, NON YORUBA RAILWAY UNION LEADERS OPENLY AGAINST STRIKE AND HAVE URGED WORKERS TO REMAIN ON JOBS. SKETCHY REPORTS SO FAR INDICATE STRIKE EFFECTIVE ONLY IN LAGOS AND WESTERN STATES, WITH OTHER AREAS OF NATION NOT YET AFFECTED.

2. SEVERAL UNION OFFICIALS STATE REAL CAUSE OF STRIKE IS EFFORT BY YOURBA UNION LEADERS TO USE INDUSTRIAL ACTION AS MEANS OF OUSTING NRC ACTING GENERAL MANAGER NZEGWU, AN IBO. OUR SOURCES ALLEGE YORUBAS ACTING IN CONCERT WITH NRC ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER ALADE, A YORUBA, WHO SEEKS GENERAL MANAGER'S POSITION.

3. COMMENT: IF ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING TRIBAL NAUTRE OF STRIKE ARE VALID (AND VAGUENESS OF ANNOUNCED UNION DEMANDS SUGGESTS THIS MAY WELL BE CASE), THIS IS FIRST KNOWN INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE IN RECENT YEARS STEMMING FROM TRIBAL ISSUE. TO EXTENT THIS INTERPRETATION CORRECT, FMG WILL FACE DELICATE PROBLEM IN ENDING WORK STOPPAGE, AND DURATION OF STRIKE IS THUS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT. SO LONG AS STRIKE CONFINED TO LAGOS AND WESTERN STATE AND DOES NOT AFFECT PORT HARCOURT, IT WILL HAVE ONLY LIMITED IMPACT ON SHIPMENT OF DROUGHT RELIEF SUPPLIES TO NORTH, SINCE BULK OF THESE SUPPLIES PASSING THROUGH APAPA CURRENTLY MOVING BY TRUCK.
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30 JUN 2005

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